a licence holder can appoint another person as his agent for arranging the imports permitted by the licence. The functions of such holders of letter of authority are limited to placing orders, opening letters of credit, making remittance of payment for importing the goods, arranging movement and clearing the same through the customs having regard to Sec. 147 of the Customs Act, 1962 on behalf of the licences. However, sale of import licences for dry fruits is not allowed and any violation in this regard is dealt with in accordance with the provisions contained in Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and Imports (Control) Order 1955.

Issue of Import-Export Pass Books

110. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the criterion adopted by Government is issuing the Import-Export Pass Book in 1986; and

(b) what was the number of parties which were issued such pass books along with the value of the same periodwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) During the year 1986, the Import-Export Pass Book Scheme was applicable only to registered manufacturer-exporters who have been in production and exporting regularly for a period of three financial years.

(b) The numbered value of Pass Book licence issued is as under:

Period	No. of licences	Value (in crores of rupees)
1986-87	101	24.90
1-4-87 to 30-9-87 (Six months)	78	26.91

Reduction of excise duty on nylon fabrics

111. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the excise duty on nylon fabrics; if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) what criteria have been adopted in taking this decision; and

(c) what gain has accrued to Government by the reduction of excise duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have reduced the excise duty on cheaper varieties of nylon fabrics of weight not exceeding 35 grams per square metre from Rs. 1.25 to 75 paise per square metre with effect from the 19th January, 1988. This duty edruction was made taking into account the representations received from the industry and also taking note of the fact that the duty incidence on cheaper varieties of nylon fabrics had gone up under the new excise duty structure on man-made fabrics introduced with effect from the 25th November, 1987. This is only a modification of the duty structure announced on the 25th November, 1987 and therefore the question of any gain accruing to the Government does not arise.

News-item captioned 'U.S. Co. dumped toxic wastes in India'

112. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared in Business Standard dated 14th January, 1988 under the caption 'US Co. dumped toxic wastes in India'; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether any investigation has been ordered in this regard; if so, the outcome, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no information on import of toxic wastes into India.

However, the United Nations Environment Programme is considering preparation of a global convention on the control of trans border movement of hazardous wastes.

Modification in small savings policy

113. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to certain modifications in the small savings policy by the Central Government, there has been a sharp decline in the savings schemes of the Maharashtra Government as well as in the quantum of Central loan assistance to the State;

(b) what is the actual amount sanctioned to Maharashtra by the Central Government as ad hoc additional loan assistance to set off the loss by the above modifications during 1986-87; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Maharashtra Government has not received any such ad hoc additional loan assistance during the period 1987-88; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The pattern of investment by non-Government Employees Provident Funds was revised from 1.4.86 as per which these funds are not allowed to invest in Post Office Time Deposit Accounts.

(b) Loan of Rs. 42.50 crores was sanctioned to Maharashtra during 1986-87 for compensation of shortfall with reference to Plan assumption for 1986-87.

(c) Plan assumption of small savings loan for 1987-88 for Maharashtra is Rs. 400 crores. As against this, loan of Rs. 486.62 crores stands released.

Smuggling out of arms from the armoury of Tripura Armed Police and Tripura State Rifles

114. SHRI VITHAL BHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some arms and ammunition were smuggled out from the Armoury of the Tripura Armed Police and Tripura State Rifles;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the weapons smuggled out have goine into the hands of T.N.V. extremists;

(c) how many people have been killed during the last one year in Tripura by T.N.V. extremists; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to curb the activities of T.N.V. extremists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The armoury of Tripura Armed Police and Tripura State Rifles have been sealed and a thorough search is being conducted.

(c) 162 persons have been killed by the TNV extremists during the period 1-2-87 to 31.1.88.

(d) The TNV was declared as unlawful under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 on 4.2.87. Under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1952 the whole of Tripura has been declared as 'disturbed area' on 29.1.1988. The Army has assumed overall command and control of the counter-insurgency operations. A Major General of the Army has been designated as the Task Force Commander with headquarters at Agartala.